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and Commodities

REPORT OF THE EXPERT MEETING ON STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTOR

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 20 to 22 July 1998

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I. AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS [1]

1. In recognition that environmental services can contribute to improving living conditions, especially for the poorest members of the population, experts decided to bring the following conclusions and recommendations to the attention of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at its third session.

A. Addressed to the international community

2. Increased, and improved access to, international financing for developing countries, including through non-governmental organizations, can facilitate their access to environmental goods and services and strengthen their domestic capacities to provide environmental services.

3. Technical support for institutional capacity-building, enhancement of social awareness and human resources development in developing countries for the preparation and enforcement of environmental standards and regulations should be encouraged.

4. Work in relevant international organizations should continue on improving statistics and definitions of environmental services and on analysing existing barriers in the sector. This would provide, *inter alia*, a basis for possible liberalization in the forthcoming negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), in recognition of the positive contribution of further trade liberalization in the environmental services sector to environmental protection.

B. Addressed to national Governments

5. Governments are invited to:

(a) Establish and maintain a strong and effective regulatory framework within which environmental laws and regulations are enforced. The objectives of such regulations could be pursued using a combination of regulatory, market-based and information-based instruments. This would also provide predictability and security for suppliers of environmental goods and services;

(b) Take steps to increase public awareness and to facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process through disclosure of relevant information with respect to environmental needs, risks and costs, as well as the potential impact on health;

(c) Introduce or expand the environmental dimension in all national policies and programmes, with particular emphasis on education programmes, so as to allow for the support and enforcement of their environmental policies;

(d) Encourage partnerships between local environmental services firms, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, and more advanced firms so as to make it possible to acquire state-of-the-art technology and develop supply capacities, including for export markets;

(e) Encourage public/private partnerships with a view to achieving a more effective use of environmental aid funds, creating new business opportunities in the environmental services sector, attaining improved efficiency and higher standards in the delivery of environmental services, acquiring state-of-the-art technology and management know-how, and facilitating participation of private capital, particularly in developing countries;

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[1] As adopted by the Expert Meeting at its closing plenary meeting on 22 July 1998.

(f) Ensure that local and traditional management of ecosystems is recognized and promoted, when it contributes to ecological efficiency;

(g) Pursue further liberalization in the environmental services sector in the framework of forthcoming GATS negotiations, in recognition of the fact that trade liberalization in the environmental services sector could result in "win-win" situations, which could lead to environmental and economic benefits;

(h) Apply their public procurement practices so as to facilitate access to the necessary environmental services.

6. Governments of developed countries, pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements and relevant United Nations recommendations, are invited to facilitate developing country access to environmentally sound technologies (ESTs), giving priority to the acquisition of prevention technologies, so as to facilitate leapfrogging in technological development.

7. Developing-country Governments are invited to take steps, including the protection of intellectual property rights, to improve their capacity to absorb ESTs and adapt them to local conditions. Transfer of environmentally sound traditional technology should also be encouraged.

8. Governments envisaging an increasing role for the private sector (for instance in the water and waste segments) are invited to ensure that the goals of equity and efficiency are achieved.

9. Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to provide technical cooperation to developing countries if so requested. Governments in developing countries are invited to increase the level of their mutual technical cooperation.

C. Addressed to UNCTAD

10. In the context of its existing programmes, UNCTAD, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and other concerned organizations, should:

(a) Collect, analyse and disseminate information relating to experiences on:

(i) Transfer of ESTs;

(ii) Partnerships between developed- and developing-country firms, as well as between private and public firms;

(iii) Use of ESTs for cleaner production in developing countries in key industrial sectors;

(iv) Effective use of taxation policies and market-based mechanisms to promote environmental objectives;

(v) Contribution of official development assistance in facilitating the formation of environmental services firms in developing countries;

(b) Promote:

(i) Trade in environmental services - including those based on environmentally sound traditional technologies - particularly among developing countries;

(ii) An exchange of information on environmental policies;

(iii) Training to build or enhance human resources in developing countries in the environmental services sector;

(c) Develop:

(i) Appropriate procedures to follow up and obtain feedback on the present recommendations.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

A. Major trends in the environmental industry

1. The major trends in the environmental industry have exhibited changing patterns in recent years; after the peak growth rates of the late 1980s, developed countries have witnessed a decline in growth rates to between zero and 3 per cent and a build-up of over-capacity in some areas. This situation is mainly due to compliance with existing regulations by the largest polluters, limited implementation of new environmental legislation and less stringent enforcement. At the same time, there is still vast potential in many developing countries, where growth in the environmental industry has reached 5-25 per cent and where there is a critical need for environmental services to deal with dramatic environmental problems. As a result, exports of environmental services, though still only a small share of total revenues, have become relatively more significant. This phenomenon, along with privatization and the trend towards harmonizing national environmental standards and adopting global environmental targets, is making the industry more export-oriented.

2. According to a private-sector estimate, in 1996 the global environmental market represented some US$ 452 billion in revenues generated by private companies and public-sector bodies. Half of the market was represented by fees generated by services, while the remaining half was almost equally divided between equipment sales and the sale of environmental resources, such as water, energy or reclaimed material. Around 87 per cent of total revenue was generated in the United States of America, Western Europe and Japan; only the remaining 13 per cent was generated by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, though the most rapid market growth may occur in these countries. Annual growth forecast for the years 1999 and 2000 is promising: 12 per cent for Asia and Latin America, 10 per cent for Africa, and 8 per cent for countries in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

3. The volatility of demand for environmental services creates particularly difficult conditions for firms operating in this sector. For example, in the United States of America, the annual growth rate of the environmental industry fluctuated from 10 per cent in 1971 to 16 per cent in 1988 and 2 per cent in 1996.

4. The environmental industry has a dual structure, with a small number of large firms accounting for about 50 per cent of output in individual market segments and a large number of smaller firms accounting for the remainder. In 1995, the top 50 companies in the industry represented 20 per cent of the market. The only company from a developing country which appears in the list is a Brazilian State-owned company operating in the water sector.

5. The structure of the industry is changing, since consolidations, merger and acquisitions are increasingly taking place to satisfy a very diversified and multi-disciplinary demand. The industry's goals are also changing, from compliance with regulations to the efficient use of resources. The private sector is playing an increasingly important role, thanks to privatization in both developing and developed countries in the water, waste and energy sectors. On the other hand, some public-sector bodies are making the expertise they have developed in this field available to other countries, and are therefore competing with private firms in the market.

6. The issue of trade liberalization in the environmental industry is being discussed in several international forums. At their November 1997 meeting in Vancouver, trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum agreed to pursue early, voluntary liberalization in several sectors, including environmental goods and services. The European Union has also indicated that the liberalization of environmental services is a priority area for the forthcoming round of multilateral negotiations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

7. However, the benefits of trade liberalization may not be realized if certain preconditions are not satisfied. Appropriate domestic environmental legislation has to be set up and enforced. The transfer of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) has to be pursued. Environmental education and public awareness have to be enhanced. International financing is essential to enable developing countries to address their most pressing environmental problems: a gap exists in these countries between their environmental needs and the resources available to satisfy them. Resources may originate from multilateral financial institutions, development agencies, regional development banks and bilateral donors. However, the process of getting international financing, especially from multilateral donors, may be over-bureaucratic and slow.

B. Demand-generating factors

8. Factors that contribute to growth in the demand for and international trade in environmental services are mainly related to the development and enforcement of appropriate environmental legislation at country level, especially through regulatory instruments. However, market-based incentives, fiscal policies and public education and awareness also contribute to ensuring a sustainable demand for environmental goods and services. Multilateral and bilateral assistance represents an important market-driver in developing countries, where external financing makes it possible to secure at least some of the environmental goods and services needed.

9. Regulations used to be the most powerful demand-generating factor in developed countries, but there is now an increasing reliance on non-regulatory mechanisms. In most developing countries, however, regulations are still the main driver of the demand for environmental services.

10. Public awareness and environmental education are playing an increasingly important role in developed countries as demand-generating factors and are beginning to have an impact in developing countries too. For instance, transnational corporations may apply the same environmental standards in all the countries where they operate to avoid being criticized by shareholders and public opinion in their home country. Economic and financial considerations are also playing an increasingly important role, since the goal is at present "to get more with less". The development of life-cycle analysis is facilitating the task of finding ways of producing more efficiently, limiting the use of raw materials, water and energy. Civil liability is also a factor in encouraging companies to pay more attention to the environmental damages they may cause during their activities. Self-reporting, self-imposed standards in companies, environmental management schemes (such as the ISO series 14000) and voluntary eco-labelling programmes are additional factors in generating demand for environmental services, but they are often limited to large companies in developed countries.

11. An additional demand-generating factor for environmental services in developing countries has been the introduction of environment-related requirements in their export markets. The need to comply with such standards and regulations has led to some changes in the production processes and therefore has generated additional demand for environmental goods and services.

C. Environmentally sound technologies

12. ESTs are difficult to define, since what is regarded as an EST today may not be so tomorrow, and what is considered an EST in one country may not be so in another. A successful transfer of technology may occur if local technicians are trained to absorb foreign technologies and adapt them to local needs. In most cases solutions which have been developed by and for industrialized countries are not appropriate to the environmental conditions in developing countries. Environmental problems have to be addressed and, it is to be hoped, solved through solutions which are appropriate to each individual case. For instance, even though London and Mexico City share the problem of ozone pollution, significant improvements would probably not be achieved just by

applying the same remedies in the two cities. Likewise, solutions related to waste collection and treatment in developed countries cannot be applied successfully in developing countries, where waste composition is different.

13. When developed countries began to address environmental problems, the prevailing technology was of the "ex-post" type ("end-of-pipe" technologies), aimed at correcting the pollution rather than avoiding it through the use of cleaner technologies. Only in the second phase did developed countries begin to introduce pollution-prevention technologies. Developing countries could aim to "leapfrog" these first-generation technologies and seek to adopt pollution-prevention technologies, though their cost may prevent many from achieving that goal.

14. The issue of the transfer of technology and its potential beneficial effect on developing countries' development and trade perspectives has been addressed in several forums. Provisions which encourage such a transfer are included in multilateral trade and environmental agreements and in several United Nations resolutions. While the possibility of using new facilitating instruments is being explored, according to some, a completely satisfactory solution to the problem of technology transfer has yet to be found.

15. The possibility of providing developing countries with ESTs on preferential terms could be considered. Some have argued that developed-country Governments could consider compensating private firms for the profit forgone by providing ESTs to developing countries at reduced costs.

16. One of the ways of overcoming the problem of financing ESTs in developing countries is through a joint effort of environmental authorities, local industries and national and international lending institutions. Many of the latter are ready to offer credits at below-market rates to companies with superior environmental performance. They set aside given amounts of "green" credit, motivated by their own providers of funds, who express preferences for "environmentally-correct" behaviour. Making available these more favourable loans to companies with good environmental performance requires some sort of collaboration between government environmental authorities in developing countries, domestic industries and financial institutions, where the environmental authorities certify good environmental performance.

17. The international transfer of expertise and technology would to a large degree depend on how private companies could be attracted into domestic markets, either through joint ventures or through participation in the process of privatization. However, private firms are more likely to establish operations in foreign countries if economic benefits can be secured and there are few limitations on ownership and control of companies and assets. In fact, a characteristic of some environmental services, especially those related to utilities, is that they involve considerable investment which can only be recouped in the long term. This makes ownership and control a more vital consideration than in the case of many other service sectors. Private investment could supplement or replace the usually scarce public finance.

18. When analysing the transfer of ESTs from developed to developing ccuntries, care has to be taken in drawing any analogies with the transfer of industrial technologies from the North to the South. While in the latter case the technological advantage of developed countries' technologies is rarely disputed, in many cases developing countries use traditional technologies which are cleaner than the prevailing technologies used in middle-income countries. Another issue that arises in the technological relations between developed and developing ccuntries is the fact that in some cases traditional technologies and processes have been, or could be, patented by private firms (particularly firms from developed countries, especially in the field of genetic resources management) and could become unavailable to the populations of developing countries who have traditionally used them at no or very little cost. These populations may be forced to start paying for the use of these patented goods, which may aggravate their poverty.

D. Equity

19. When the private sector is involved in the management or ownership of public goods such as water, special rules are required to ensure that the interests of all social groups are protected. In the environmental sector, as well as in the health and telecommunication sectors, all considerations point to the need for Governments to provide a regulatory framework. Conditions may be set up under which domestic and foreign private companies have to operate to guarantee that equity and efficiency are both achieved. According to some, the profits generated by water supply should mainly be invested in water infrastructure. With regard to the pricing policy for water supply, it may be argued that fees charged to consumers should not exceed a certain ceiling and that government subsidies are necessary policy tools, especially to guarantee access to water to the poorer segments of the population.

E. Specific problems faced by developing countries

20. In developing countries the lack of appropriate institutions capable of effectively enforcing environmental legislation is of paramount importance. This problem is often coupled with the lack of a clearly defined environmental policy which could be translated into practical action by the implementing agencies. In addition, environmental legislation itself is in the initial stages of development in a number of countries. Furthermore, most developing countries are faced with a lack of qualified personnel, exacerbated by the fact that the remuneration offered by the private sector often makes it difficult to retain the best qualified personnel in the public sector.

21. The internalization of environmental costs could be a viable tool for passing the costs of environmental improvements on to consumers, and may prove to be the most sustainable policy instrument in continuously driving the demand for improved environmental conditions. This strategy, however, may undermine the international competitiveness of firms in those countries which are willing to adopt it.

22. There is a general perception that poverty in developing countries poses a major threat to the environment. However, it is frequently the case that some of those living at the poverty level in these countries (particularly in rural areas) strive to preserve the environment, the reason being that the environment is the ultimate source of their livelihood, providing them with essential resources, such as water, and the possibility of developing subsistence agriculture. In such situations, strong environmental laws respond to the needs of the poor and are demanded by them.

F. Environmental services, GATS and the scope for further trade liberalization

23. Environmental services is a relatively new subject in GATS, since there was limited scope for international trade in this sector in the past. Environmental services were considered to have all the characteristics of the public good and thus had to be supplied by the Government, usually at local level. On the other hand, the sector has also been prone to the existence of natural monopolies, which excluded any competition from private service suppliers. Recent changes and the privatization of public utilities have created a number of private markets and opened up the sector to international competition. Even where monopolies still remain in place, a regulated private monopoly is preferred to a public one. As a result, Governments are increasingly assuming the role of procurers and regulators, leaving to the private sector the role of provider of environmental services.

24. The definition of environmental services in GATS is relatively restricted, particularly when considering the integrated supply of environmental services that industry is providing at present. In that respect, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has developed a more comprehensive

definition, including, for example, resource management and cleaner technologies.

25. Commercial presence appears to be the most important mode of supply for trade in environmental services, supported by the temporary presence of natural persons.

26. International trade in environmental services does not face any significant barriers in the sector itself, but horizontal measures such as restrictions on investment and movement of persons and government procurement policies affect trade in this sector. Only a limited number of countries, including the major trading countries, have made commitments on environmental services.

27. Different approaches may be envisaged to address the problem of the inadequate definition of the environmental services sector. One would be to adopt a broader definition and include in it the non-traditional environmental services which constitute an important and increasing share of the market. Commitments would therefore be scheduled with reference to this newly and more broadly defined sector. Another option would be to look at those services which are necessary to the delivery of an environmental service - such as construction, legal or management services - and specify in the commitments that insofar as those services are linked to the delivery of an environmental service they are not subject to the limitations that would otherwise apply to them. The environmental services sector seems to be a likely area for successful trade liberalization, since it enjoys the support of those promoting free trade as well as those promoting environmentally sound development.

28. Nevertheless, there may be little point in reviewing the GATS definition of environmental services, even to provide a more comprehensive picture of the sector, since negotiations on services in the year 2000 will be comprehensive and will proceed along intersectoral lines, considering interrelated sectors together.

29. The consideration of environmental goods and services in one package may be preferable from the point of view of achieving comprehensive trade liberalization of the environmental industry, and would allow greater scope for trade-offs. The separation between goods and services seems to be an artificial distinction followed in the World Trade Organization that does not appropriately reflect the present situation in which companies are increasingly required to provide integrated packages of environmental goods and services or multi-disciplinary services.

30. Besides barriers which may be included in GATS commitments (both specific and horizontal), other important barriers remain in such areas as the system of taxes and subsidies. Particular importance is attached to the discriminatory nature of government procurement, since the public sector is an important purchaser of environmental services and a source of revenue for private companies. Domestic regulations may create implicit barriers to trade through the imposition of standards that would prohibit or limit access by foreign service suppliers.

G. Business opportunities for developing countries and actual or potential limitations

31. Partnerships are one of the main forms of providing environmental service suppliers in developing countries with business opportunities, while at the same time allowing technology transfer and capacity-building. Partnerships usually have some of the following features:

(a) Participation of both the public and the private sectors;

(b) Participation of both domestic and international capital;

(c) Designed to tackle a specific problem for a very limited purpose, rather than for general business development;

(d) Frequent involvement of international donors and their agencies;

(e) Local government participation in the form of in-kind contributions;

(f) Adaptation of foreign technologies to local conditions.

32. This sort of partnership has the following advantages:

(a) International donor participation backs the projects until payback is achieved;

(b) Foreign private capital participation tends to bring with it some of the necessary funds and more advanced technologies;

(c) Public-sector involvement tends to ensure political backing for projects;

(d) They promote better mutual understanding among the different stakeholders and partners in such joint-ventures;

(e) They create the basis for local supply capacity development.

33. Partnerships between companies in developing countries and those in developed countries are not only beneficial for the former. Developed-country firms may benefit from partnerships because the latter facilitate their activities in emerging markets, where environmental and business conditions may be quite different from those at home. At present some developing-country firms are entering into partnerships with firms from developed countries in order to have access to management skills.

34. The major difficulties related to partnerships are finding a local "champion" (who transfers legitimacy locally) and ensuring the continuity of project management teams. An additional problem faced by partnerships is the generally unequal participation of foreign and domestic capital, with the former tending to have control over operations and decisions. Doubts may arise as to the appropriateness of partnerships when there is too great an imbalance between the economic strength of the two partners. However, a situation which is unbalanced at the beginning may improve over time, as the weaker partner acquires more capacity and consequently increases its bargaining power.

35. Partnerships may fail for a number of reasons, such as the inadequacy of one of the partners, the discontinuing of external financial support before the partnership becomes economically viable, or the inability of the partners to overcome unexpected difficulties. There are also several conditions which contribute to the success of partnerships: they include a clear economic interest from both parties involved, transparency, clear assignment of duties and responsibilities, and a well-developed plan in which the results to be achieved through the partnership are laid out.

36. A crucial question in partnerships between the public and private sectors relates to the ownership of natural resources. In the less advanced regions of the developing world, local communities (rather than Governments) often have the ownership of these resources and have traditionally managed and used them according to their needs. Traditionally this has not posed any problems, but property becomes an issue when the market dimension jeopardizes traditional ownership and usage by local communities. Where traditional ownership by local communities prevails, the participation of central or local governments in partnerships does not guarantee non-conflicting access to natural resources or an adequate resolution of the ownership problem. Moreover, this aspect highlights the wider question of the relationship between communities and the management of natural resources on the one hand, and national and international legislation on the other.

37. The development of environmental services must take into account the demands of civil society, not only those of Governments. Again, it is important to involve local institutions (whichever they may be) when considering environment-related projects.

38. Some donors emphasize the replicability of projects they are financing, so that solutions which have been successfully adopted in one situation can be applied in other cities, regions or countries with similar problems. When this is possible, the development costs when replicating the experience will be considerably reduced.

39. A factor which must be addressed in the environmental policy of Governments, and one which also generates demand for environmental services, is the occurrence of environmental emergencies, particularly man-made disasters. Local authorities are expected to intervene in the event of such disasters, thus providing environmental services. It is a duty of Governments to oversee private firms, for example, by imposing adequate standards and adopting liability laws. However, in exercising oversight they need information and expertise, which they frequently lack. The best way to avoid this problem is to draw upon the expertise of private firms, since such expertise is not available anywhere else. Governments should strive to avoid unnecessary conflict between the private and the public sectors and to provide a reasonable incentive for the adequate flow of information. The objective is to ensure that private firms provide information in good faith, and this can be achieved if the firms perceive the process as being in their interest. Governments can use a series of instruments, such as disclosure requirements (e.g. environmental impact assessments) or a requirement for risk management plans; these instruments can be complemented by voluntary processes such as the ISO 14000 series. Firms should not be required to disclose confidential information, but they should make risks known to the public and share information about objective standards. In this way local communities become aware of the risks to which they are exposed.

H. Enhancing domestic capacity in the environmental services sector

40. An important point to bear in mind is that managing environmental infrastructure services is not necessarily the same as managing natural resources. In many cases, firms concentrate only on the former, to the possible detriment of the environmental and economic sustainability of such services. In order to avoid this danger, a more comprehensive approach to the management of natural resources is required.

41. The successful experiences of some developing countries have shown that the following factors are conducive to developing domestic capacity in the environmental services sector:

(a) A considerable period of time to implement and enforce appropriate environmental legislation, possibly after experience of the use of several instruments of environmental policy (including command-and-control and market instruments). To pass such legislation requires political leadership and consistency, which, in turn, presuppose an awareness of environmental issues on the part of policy makers and politicians;

(b) The inclusion of national efforts in the framework of the achievement of global goals, as defined in Agenda 21;

(c) Educating the population, including through long-term environmental awareness policies and campaigns (e.g. by incorporating environmental awareness in the school curriculum);

(d) Participatory decision-making processes and the sharing of information;

(e) Development of a pool of highly skilled human resources, through long-term investment in and commitment to human resource development;

(f) Experience in undertaking studies, impact assessment and consultancy work;

(g) Mastery of technologies (including more advanced ones) and the capacity to adapt them to local conditions and demands;

(h) Some degree of success in addressing local environmental and public health problems and in achieving better use of natural resources and energy. In other words, the ecosystem needs to have been strengthened;

(i) Capacity to establish links with more technologically advanced foreign firms and institutions;

(j) Partial self-financing;

(k) Financial support provided by domestic and foreign capital;

(l) Involvement of the private sector.

42. Once most of the factors mentioned above are present and there has been solid development of domestic capacity, developing-country firms, including small and medium-sized enterprises, can tap foreign markets and seek export opportunities. This typically tends to take place in the scope of South-South trade, where firms start by exporting environmental services to neighbouring countries and regional partners who share similar environmental characteristics and problems and with whom they may have cultural or linguistic affinities.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Convening of the Expert Meeting

1. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at the closing meeting of its second session on 21 November 1997,[2] the Expert Meeting on Strengthening Capacities in Developing Countries to Develop Their Environmental Services Sector was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 20 to 22 July 1998. The meeting was opened on 20 July 1998 by Mr. Jagdish Saigal, Senior Programme Manager of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

2. At its opening meeting, the Expert Meeting elected the following officers to serve on its Bureau:

Chairperson:	Ms. Tubiana	(France)
Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur:	Mr. Youssef	(Egypt)

C. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 2)

3. At the same meeting, the Expert Meeting adopted the provisional agenda circulated in TD/B/COM.1/EM.7/1. Accordingly, the agenda for the Meeting was as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Strengthening capacities in developing countries to develop their environmental services sector
4. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

D. Documentation

4. For its consideration of the substantive agenda item (item 3), the Expert Meeting had before it a background note by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Strengthening capacities in developing countries to develop their environmental services sector" (TD/B/COM.1/EM.7/2)

E. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

(Agenda item 4)

5. At its closing meeting, on 22 July 1998, the Expert Meeting adopted the agreed conclusions and recommendations reproduced in section I above, and authorized the Chairperson to prepare a summary of the Meeting (see section II above).

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[2] See Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on its second session (TD/B/45/2 -TD/B/COM.1/15), annex I.

Annex

ATTENDANCE *

1. Experts from the following States members of UNCTAD attended the meeting:

Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Japan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Russian Federation
Senegal
Spain
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen

2. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation
Arab Labour Organization
Organization of the Islamic Conference

3. The following specialized agencies and related organization were represented at the meeting:

World Health Organization
International Monetary Fund
International Telecommunication Union
World Intellectual Property Organization
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Trade Organization

4. The Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO were represented at the meeting.

5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

General Category

International Council of Environmental Law
International Organization for Standardization
World Federation of United Nations Associations

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* For the list of participants, see TD/B/COM.1/EM.7/INF.1.

Special Category

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations